

View of Everest



# GOING UP IN THE WORLD

Balloon flight over Bagan





Angel Falls, Venezuela

## Okavango Delta, Botswana

Nose pressed to the window of a Cessna-206, you zip along the hot tarmac of Maun airport and up into the cool air. Banking left over mud huts you head north into the Delta. The Boro River cuts the parched earth below, glittering in the sun and full of hippo pods. The Delta spreads out before you, palm islands crossed with animal tracks and elephant dotting the floodplains. Coming in to land, you buzz the runway to scare away the baboon, lechwe and giraffe, then turn back to glide down to earth and bounce along the grass. The door opens with a blast of hot air and you've arrived in the Delta, but the safari has already begun.

**Ruth Milligan**  
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## Wadi Rum, Jordan

Not many people realise it, but it is possible to take a light aircraft flight over Wadi Rum. It is not cheap. Costing around £150 for an hour-long flight, it is conducted by the Royal Aerospots Club of Jordan in a Cessna-206, a quiet aircraft which passes over the remarkable desert scenery at low speeds to allow you the best possible opportunity to enjoy the views. You may even get the chance to take the controls for yourself under the watchful eye of your pilot.

**Sarah Whatman**  
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## Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong

The combination of a spectacular natural setting and gleaming skyscrapers make Hong Kong arguably the most dramatic cityscape in the world. Departing from the Kowloon Peninsula, a 15-minute

# Our specialists take to the air in planes, balloons and helicopters for a different view of their favourite destinations.

helicopter ride circles the island, flying over wooded hills and secluded beaches to the outlying islands before returning to pass over the thronging waterways of Victoria Harbour and the forest of glittering steel and glass towers.

**Paul Done**  
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## Everest, Nepal

For breathtaking aerial views of the tallest mountains in the world, take a scenic flight in a 14-seat aircraft over the enchanting Kathmandu valley. The trip lasts for one hour and offers eye level views of the snowy peaks of Kanchenjunga, the Tibetan plateau and of course the mighty Everest - sit on the left of the cabin for the best view.

**Andrea Hulme**  
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## Angel Falls, Venezuela

Angel Falls, the highest waterfall in the world, plunges 979 metres down a vertical cliff from Auyan tepui in Venezuela's Canaima National Park. The best way to view the falls is to take a flight in a four or six seater Cessna which takes you over the surrounding table top mountains (tepuis) and Canaima Lagoon before heading into the Devil's Canyon and over Angel Falls. The landscape views are absolutely spectacular throughout the flight, and make for a sensational experience.

**Nikki Seymour-Mead**  
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## Sydney, Australia

Using Sydney as a base, you fly low over the nearby Blue Mountains before landing in a paddock on a spectacular cattle station. A stroll through the bush is taken in the company of wild kangaroos and

Hendo, the station owner, before flying off to a couple of boutique wineries in the Hunter Valley. Returning to Sydney, you experience the ultimate scenic thrill with a twilight flight over Sydney Harbour, the Opera House and the iconic bridge.

**Sarah Kane**  
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## Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Swooping around in a helicopter is an incredible way to appreciate the beauty of Rio, seeing the beaches curving around the granite rocks, hovering by Sugar Loaf Mountain, and having your breath taken away as you circle the statue of Christ the Redeemer.

**Malachy O'Neill**  
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## Bagan, Myanmar

The vast plains of Bagan in Myanmar are speckled with over 3,000 temples and pagodas, some dating back to the 11th century and each with their own fascinating legend. The best way to drink in this superb panorama is from a hot air balloon. The adventure begins before sunrise when you venture out bleary-eyed into this dark and arid landscape unaware of what magnificent vistas await. Guided by gentle winds, the balloon climbs gracefully above Bagan just as the sun rises, casting its early rays on the temples and bathing the landscape a brilliant orange.

**Kate Dicks**  
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Wadi Rum